

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - RASMIH:MFG

APPROVED BY EA/TB - GBROBERTS

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P 281612Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: COUP RUMORS

1. THE WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED JULY 24 A LEWIS SIMONS ARTICLE WHICH HEADLINED "THAIS FEAR A RETURN TO MILITARY CONTROL". THE ARTICLE REPORTS THAT "WESTERN OBSERVERS" BELIEVE THAT THE THAI ARMY AND ITS POLITICAL ALLIES HAVE DECIDED TO OVERTURN THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THAT GOVERNMENT IS MOVING TOO SWIFTLY TO "MEND FENCES" WITH THAILAND'S NEW COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.

2. THE SIMONS ARTICLE HAS AROUSED INTEREST IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE DEGREE OF THAI MILITARY DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SENI GOVERNMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT IN GENERAL AND SPECIFICALLY ON:

(A) WHERE HAS POWER GRAVITATED IN THE MILITARY SINCE THE DEATH OF GENERAL KRIT AND THE REASSIGNMENT OF PRAMAN?

(B) IS THERE SUBSTANCE TO REPORTS THAT THE THAI MILITARY HAVE TAKEN SPECIFIC ACTIONS (E.G., DEFOLIATION MISSIONS

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WITHIN CAMBODIA) DESIGNED TO SABOTAGE THE MINISTRY OF

FOREIGN AFFAIRS' EFFORTS TO REACH A RAPPROCHEMENT WITH  
THE INDOCHINA COUNTRIES?

(C) TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE COMPLETION OF THE US MILITARY WITHDRAWAL AND RECENT INSURGENT ATTACKS TENDED TO UNITE THE THAI MILITARY IN OPPOSITION TO THE POLICIES OF THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT?

(D) TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE THAI MILITARY OR ELEMENTS WITHIN THE THAI MILITARY CAPABLE OF MOUNTING A COUP? KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 28 JUL 1976  
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**Disposition Authority:** ullricre  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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